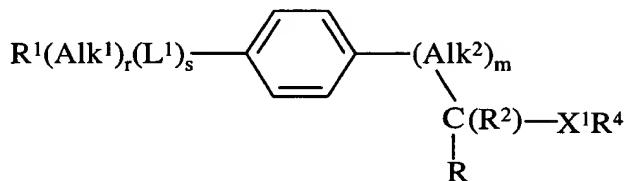


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1a):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

R^1 is an optionally substituted a pyridyl group substituted by one or two halogen atoms;

$-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s$ is a $-CH_2O-$ or $-CON(R^5)-$ group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted chain selected from L^2CH_2 , $CH_2L^2CH_2$, $L^2(CH_2)_2$, $CH_2L^2(CH_2)_2$, $(CH_2)_2L^2CH_2$, $L^2(CH_2)_3$, and $(CH_2)_2L^2(CH_2)_2$, where L^2 is selected from the group consisting of O , S , $C(O)$, $C(O)O$, $C(S)$, $S(O)$, $S(O)_2$, $N(R^5)$, $CON(R^5)$, $OC(O)N(R^5)$, $CSN(R^5)$, $N(R^5)CO$, $N(R^5)C(O)O$, $N(R^5)CS$, $S(O)N(R^5)$, $S(O)_2N(R^5)$, $N(R^5)S(O)$, $N(R^5)S(O)_2$, $N(R^5)CON(R^5)$, $N(R^5)CSN(R^5)$, $N(R^5)SON(R^5)$, and $N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)$;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

L^1 is O , S , $C(O)$, $C(O)O$, $C(S)$, $S(O)$, $S(O)_2$, $N(R^5)$, $CON(R^5)$, $OC(O)N(R^5)$, $CSN(R^5)$, $N(R^5)CO$, $N(R^5)C(O)O$, $N(R^5)CS$, $S(O)N(R^5)$, $S(O)_2N(R^5)$, $N(R^5)S(O)$, $N(R^5)S(O)_2$, $N(R^5)CON(R^5)$, $N(R^5)CSN(R^5)$, $N(R^5)SON(R^5)$, or $N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)$;

~~r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;~~

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO-, (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R⁴ is ~~an optionally substituted C₁₋₆aliphatic, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkenyl, C₇₋₁₀bicycloalkyl, C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkyl, C₇₋₁₀bicycloalkenyl, or C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkenyl group a straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl group;~~

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 5 wherein -(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s- is a -CONH-group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk² is -CH₂-, m is an integer 1, and R² is a hydrogen atom.

8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO-, -NHSO₂-, -NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

9. (original) A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO- group.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 10 Claim 1 wherein R⁴ is an ~~optionally substituted a~~ straight or branched C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl~~ or ~~adamantyl~~ group.

12. (currently amended) A compound which is:

N-Isopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Acetyl-*N*'-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14-19. (canceled)

20. (new) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ is a pyridyl group substituted by one or two chlorine atoms.